



WHEREAS, thanks to thousands of adoptive parents across the state, 15,451 children have found permanent homes in Illinois over the last decade, including 1,838 children in the last year alone; and,

WHEREAS, all children need and deserve the love, nurturing, and sense of security that can only come from being a part of a loving, permanent family; and,

WHEREAS, adoption provides a unique joy and a special opportunity for individuals, whether or not they are already parents, married, in a civil union, single, or divorced, to open their hearts and homes to children; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and its nonprofit partners strive to reunite children with their birth families, but when that simply is not possible, are equally committed to ensuring every child has the safe, loving family he or she deserve and need to reach his or her fullest potential; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has made great strides in recent years to strengthen and improve the child welfare system, reducing the number of children in temporary substitute care from 52,000 to 14,661; establishing a Bill of Rights for both birth parents and adoptive parents; and strengthening licensing requirements for adoption agencies to prevent the exploitation of birth parents, adoptive parents, and children; and,

WHEREAS, we are committed to improving the child welfare system even further, especially by reducing the length of time children remain in temporary foster care; and,

WHEREAS, currently there are 1,496 children awaiting adoption across the state, of all ages, backgrounds, and needs;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 2015 as **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all Illinoisans to express their gratitude to the thousands of families across the state that have taken the loving step of adoption, and further encourage others to consider joining them in making a life-changing difference for children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this THIRTIETH *day of* SEPTEMBER, *in*

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

FIFTEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*

one hundred and NINETY-SEVENTH.



Desea White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR